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To: John Ashcroft
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From: Terry Bell

Subject:

Memo:
Microsoft Settlement



Terrence H. Bell
Certified Public Accountant

Terrence H. Bell, CPA
Donna Smith, EA

January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I write concerning the antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the federal government. I am a Certified Public Accountant and it is in the best interest of my firm, which handles tax issues for small business and individuals, for this matter to be settled expeditiously through settlement.

At first, you might not think this lawsuit could have an adverse affect on a business such as mine, however, it has. In fact, it has impacted the entire economy, which of course affects my prosperity. To settle this matter would be a step in the right direction toward getting the economy back on track, and hence stimulating business for my firm and many other companies across the country that are in a similar situation. Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in Windows. It has also agreed to design future versions of Windows, beginning with the next release of Windows XP, to provide a mechanism to make it easy for computer makers, consumers and software developers to promote non-Microsoft software within Windows. Lastly, Microsoft has agreed not to enter into any agreements requiring any third party to distribute or promote any Windows technology exclusively or in a fixed percentage. If these concessions don't make Microsoft's competitors happy, I don't know what will. There are several more major components of the settlement that I am sure you are familiar with.

The settlement goes above and beyond addressing the main complaints of the government and should satisfy both the government and Microsoft's adversaries. It is fair and reasonable and should not be allowed to be derailed by a handful of Microsoft's adversaries who will not be happy until Microsoft is broken up, which of course, is completely unnecessary and unjust.

Sincerely,

Terrence H. Bell
Certified Public Accountant

P.S. The news conference on 1/22/02 was great!

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